

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FRB-03

OMB-01 L-03 ABF-01 DODE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 NEA-10 /068 W
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R 200925Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1392
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 274
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETDT, EAGR, UR, BG

SUBJ: BDG GRAIN REPAYMENT TO USSR

REF: (A) STATE 23783 (B) DACCA 614 (C) 75 STATE 191420

1. LONG-POSTPONED REPAYMENT OF FIRST INSTALLMENT (40,000 TONS) OF 1973 SOVIET 200,000 TON WHEAT LOAN TO BANGLADESH FALLS DUE IN SEPTEMBER, 1976. WE NOW HAVE SEVERAL INDICATIONS THAT BDG PLANS TO MAKE THIS REPAYMENT ON SCHEDULE. FIRST, WE HAVE STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT REPORTED REFTEL B. SECOND, IMF OFFICIAL HERE HAS TOLD US THAT BDG CAS FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUDGET FOR 1976/77 CONTAINS \$12 MILLION LINE ITEM FOR THIS PURPOSE.

2. THIRD, AND MOST RECENT INDICATION IS THAT ON JULY 16 ABDUL MATIN, DEPUTY SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FOOD INFORMED AGATT THAT FOOD MINISTRY HAD RECEIVED FOLLOWING TELEX MESSAGE FROM SHAFI CHOWDHURY OF AA ENTERPRISES, DACCA WHO IS THE LOCAL AGENT FOR CONTINENTAL GRAIN. CHOWDHURY IS NOW IN WASHINGTON, D.C. BEGIN TEXT. UNDERSTAND GOVERNMENT BUYING ANY ORIGIN WHEAT TO REPLACE USSR LOAN. OUR DISCUSSION WITH USDA WASHINGTON INDICATE THAT IN ORDER NOT TO JEOPARDIZE FUTURE PL-480 ALLOCATIONS THE WHEAT SHOULD BE OF US ORIGIN. SINCE THIS VERY IMPORTANT FINANCING FOR OUR COUNTRY SUGGEST BUYER SHOULD

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DISCUSS WITH USDA OFFICIALS IN DACCA/WASHINGTON TTHE PROPER PROCEDURE/

CLEARANCE/ORIGIN OF WHEAT. PLEASE URGENTLY ATTEND. SUGGEST MEET WITH BUYER WHO SHOULD DISCUSS WITH EMBASSY TO CLEAR FORMALITIES. END TEXT.

3. MATIN SOUGHT EMBASSY CONFIRMATION THAT BDG PURCHASE OF US ORIGIN WHEAT (AS OPPOSED TO WHEAT FROM OTHER SUPPLIERS) NECESSARY TO AVOID JEOPARDIZING FUTURE PL-480 SALES AGREEMENTS.

4. AGATT INFORMED MATIN THAT EMBASSY UNABLE GIVE CONFIRMATION BUT WOULD ASK WASHINGTON FOR GUIDANCE.

5. OTHER LOCAL SUPPLIER AGENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN CONTACTED FOR PROPOSALS.

6. PLEASE ADVISE.
BOSTER

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